

From: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 2/3/2012 7:44:00 AM
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Fw: Scranton Times-Tribune (2-3) Water utility rebuts Cabot arsenic claims

love it -- greta strategy - she (the PA Am Water) is being aggressive, not sitting and taking it, and requesting that Cabot provide proof of their claims!!! And Cabot is too busy to respond by COB -- "We have reached out to Cabot with numerous questions," spokeswoman Susan Turcmanovich said Thursday. The utility wants to know more about the water sampling, the chain of custody for the sample, the laboratory that performed the tests, the private contractor that hauled the water, and how the results were reported, she said.

Cabot spokesman George Stark said he believes the water sample was taken from a bulk water tank or "buffalo" that was filled with public water from Montrose, but he said Cabot is "pulling all our records" and could not provide further details on Thursday.

----- Forwarded by Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US on 02/03/2012 07:41 AM -----

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Subject: Scranton Times-Tribune (2-3) Water utility rebuts Cabot arsenic claims

Water utility rebuts Cabot arsenic claims

By Laura Legere (Staff Writer)

Published: February 3, 2012

Pennsylvania American Water released six years of test results showing no evidence of arsenic at its Montrose public water supply on Thursday after a natural gas driller said this week that a Dimock Twp. water sample showing high levels of the chemical originated from the Montrose system.

Annual samples taken at the Lake Montrose treatment plant between Feb. 6, 2006, and June 1, 2011, all show no detection of arsenic, which is known to cause cancer in humans.

The water utility brought attention to the clean results Thursday to counter a claim by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. this week that a water sample cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its investigation of gas drilling's impact on water supplies was trucked to Dimock from Montrose.

Cabot raised the issue to criticize the foundation of the EPA's ongoing investigation in Dimock. The federal agency is conducting widespread water sampling and delivering replacement water to four homes as it tries to determine the source of several constituents of concern in Dimock well water, including arsenic, manganese, barium, glycols, sodium, phenol and the manufactured chemical commonly called DEHP.

The contested sample contained arsenic at 37 micrograms per liter, or nearly four times the federal drinking water limit.

Cabot said the EPA selectively cited or misinterpreted water quality data to reach a "predetermined" conclusion to justify its investigation - including mistaking replacement water delivered to backyard tanks for native Dimock well water.

Pennsylvania American Water is now probing the source of Cabot's claims.

"We have reached out to Cabot with numerous questions," spokeswoman Susan Turemanovich said Thursday. The utility wants to know more about the water sampling, the chain of custody for the sample, the laboratory that performed the tests, the private contractor that hauled the water, and how the results were reported, she said.

Cabot spokesman George Stark said he believes the water sample was taken from a bulk water tank or "buffalo" that was filled with public water from Montrose, but he said Cabot is "pulling all our records" and could not provide further details on Thursday.

He said Cabot received the information request from Pennsylvania American Water and plans to discuss findings with the company today.

He also painted the dispute as further evidence of flaws in the EPA's protocols.

"I think this illustrates the point we made in our statement," he said. "One data point is not indicative of the quality of water. You need multiple readings."

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